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SUBJECT: EMBASSY FORWARDING LETTER FROM ATT TO PRESIDENT  
OBAMA

¶1. On October 2, the Embassy received a letter from Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure addressed to President Barack Obama regretting ATT's inability to attend the President's working lunch with African leaders in New York on September 22, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. The letter is dated September 23, 2009, and the text, unofficially translated by PolOff, follows in paragraph two.

¶2. Mr. President,

I have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your letter inviting me to take part in a working lunch, set for September 22, 2009 in New York, United States of America.

I sincerely thank you.

However, I regret to inform you that, due to the celebration of Malian Independence Day, September 22, 2009, I will not be able to take part in that lunch.

Please accept, Mr. President, my expressions of great respect.

Amadou Toumani Toure

¶3. The Embassy is forwarding the original letter by pouch to AF/W.

BARLERIN